NUMB. IX.

THE PLAIN DEALER.

To be Continued *every* MONDAY *and* FRIDAY.

——— *fratremque ruentem*
Sustentat dextra. ——— VIRGIL.

MONDAY, APRIL 20. 1724.

THERE is Nothing more *talk'd* of in the World and less easily *found* than FRIENDSHIP; Every One *Pretends* to *It*, and not *One* in a *Million* really *Possesses* this *Noble Passion*, which is the most Generous that can *Actuate* and *Adorn* the *Soul* of Man; being as Necessary a *Cement*, in Private and Domestick Life, as *Publick Faith* to *Publick Society*, and the greater Commerce of the World.

FOR Want of Authentick and Real Examples of this *Noble Quality* in the Mind of Man, so conducive to his Happiness and Pleasure as well as Profit, the Antient Poets have had Recourse to Fiction, and told us Stories of their Fabulous *Pylades* and *Orestes*; but we will Entertain the Reader with the greatest Action of *Generous Friendship* that Human Nature is capable of *Performing*; and this from an Author of *unexceptionable* Credit, who was both an Eye and Ear Witness to Part of the Story, which is more remarkable, by happening between *Two Brothers*, whom the Constant Observation of all Ages, have *remark'd* to be *less* often Friends to One Another, notwithstanding the Ties of Blood, than other Persons; insomuch that *Virgil*, who had a Perfect Knowledge of *Humane Nature*, has thought fit (as it were Proverbially) to express himself on this Occasion,

Et infidos agitans Discordia Fratres.

IN the Beginning of the XVIth Century, the *Portugueze* Carracks, according to Annual Custom, sailed from *Lisbon* to *Goa*, a very great Colony and Dominion of the *Portugueze*, in the *East-Indies*. The Reader must be acquainted, That these Carracks, as to their Capacity, are the largest Vessels that press the Ocean: On Board one of these, were Twelve Hundred Souls, Mariners, Merchants, Passengers; and amongst these, Forty Priests and Fryars, who were going on their several Missions established in *China* and the *Indies*: The Beginning of their Voyage was Prosperous, they had doubled the *Cape of Good Hope*, and were steering *North-East* to the Continent of *India* when some Gentlemen who were on Board, having studied *Geography* and *Navigation*, found in the Latitude in which they then were, a very great Ridge of Rocks laid down in their Sea Charts; upon this, they apply'd themselves to the *Captain* of the Ship, and acquainted him with the danger which they apprehended, desiring him at the same Time, to communicate what they had discovered to the *Pilot*; which Request he immediately gratify'd, recommending to the *Pilot* to lye by in the *Night*, and slacken Sail by *Day*, 'till they should be past the Danger. Here the Reader must be told, That according to the Discipline of the *Portugueze* Navy, the Sailing Part is absolutely committed to the Care of the *Pilot*, who is answerable with his Head, for the safe Carriage of the King's Ship, and under no manner of Direction from the *Captain*, who commands in all other Respects.

AS these Men are generally Brutal, instead of complying with so reasonable a Request, and on which the Safety of so many Lives depended, the insolent Villain, thinking it an Affront to be taught his own Trade, after a saucy and peremptory Answer, in meer Opposition, crowded more Sail than he carried before.

THE Observations of these Gentlemen were too true, not to have a fatal Issue: They had not sailed many Hours, but just upon Break of Day, (which would have been prevented probably if they had lain by) the Ship struck upon a great Rock and broke her Back.

I Leave to the Reader's Imagination, what a Scene of Horror this must be, the Fright and Terror of 1200 Persons in the same inevitable Danger at the Sight of that instantaneous Death, which star'd them in the Face!

THE *Captain* in this Distress, immediately order'd the Pinnace to be launch'd, into which, after having toss'd in a small Quantity of Biscuit, and some few Boxes of Marmelade, he got himself with nineteen others, who seeing the Danger of a Crowd in the common Horror, rushing into the Boat, drew their Swords and prevented the coming in of any more: The same Necessity oblig'd them immediately to put off, lest their Pinnace should be drawn in by the Suction of the sinking Carrack, being so large a Vessel.

HERE they were entertain'd with the most dismal of Spectacles, their Eyes with the Sight of their sinking Friends, and their Ears with the Cries and Shrieks of so many in the same Misery, whom they could not help without their own Destruction; a Scene of Woe, which nothing could alleviate but the Reflection, that they themselves were not in the same Extremity, though humanly speaking, they were not in a much better Condition, being thus destitute in the vast *Indian* Ocean, in an open Boat without any Compass,

[Price Two Pence.]

Compaſs to direct them, without any Water ſo neceſſary to Life, but what muſt fall from thoſe Heavens, whoſe Mercy and Providence alone could deliver them. To which muſt be added, the inevitable Danger of being overſet by the firſt Wind that ſhould raiſe the Waves, beſides the Certainty of periſhing aſſoon as their ſmall Stock of Proviſions ſhould be ſpent, which only ſerv'd to prolong their Miſeries by reſerving them for a more lingring and cruel Death. In this Diſtreſs, after they had for four Days rowed to and fro, without any Guide or Direction, the Captain who had been ſick and very weak for ſome Time before, overcome with Grief and Fatigue, died. This added, if poſſible, to their Miſery, for now they fell into the laſt Confuſion, Every one would Govern, and none would Obey: This oblig'd them to chuſe one of their own Company to Command them, whoſe Orders they all agreed implicitely, without any Reſerve, to follow.

BY this we may ſee, the abſolute Neceſſity of *Government*. The Choice fell upon a Gentleman, who was, what the *Portugueze* call a *Meſtizzo*, that is, one begotten between a *Portugueze* or any other *European* and an *Indian*: This Perſon veſted with his new Authrity, propoſed to the Company to draw Lots, and throw every fourth Man overboard, by Reaſon their Proviſion was ſpent ſo far, as not to laſt above two or three Days longer: They were now Nineteen Perſons in all, their Captain being dead; in this Number were a Fryar and the Carpenter, both whom, they would exempt, by Reaſon of their being ſo neceſſary, the One to Abſolve and Comfort them in their laſt Extremity, and the other to take Care of the Boat, in Caſe of a Leak, or any other Accident; the ſame Compliment they paid to their new Captain, he being the odd Man, and his Life of more Conſequence than any of the reſt. This he refuſed a great while, but at laſt acquieſced; ſo that there were four to dye out of the ſixteen remaining.

THE Three firſt on whom the Lot fell, after having confeſs'd, and receiv'd Abſolution, ſubmitted to their Fate.

THE Fourth Perſon whom Fortune condemn'd, was a *Portugueze* Gentleman who had a younger Brother in the Boat at the ſame Time, who, ſeeing his Brother going to be flung over-board, moſt tenderly embraced him, and with Tears in his Eyes, Beſeech'd him to let him dye for him; enforcing his Arguments by telling him, That, *He was a Married Man and had a Wife and Children at* Goa, *beſides the Care of three Siſters who abſolutely depended upon him: That as for himſelf, he was a ſingle Man, and his Life conſequently of no great Importance; he therefore Conjur'd him to let him ſupply his Place.*

THE Elder Brother aſtoniſh'd and melted with this Generoſity, replied, That, *Since the Providence of* GOD, *had appointed him, it would be wicked and unjuſt to ſuffer any other to dye for him, eſpecially a Brother to whom he was ſo infinitely oblig'd.*

THE Younger Brother would take no Denyal, but flinging himſelf on his Knees, held his Brother ſo faſt, that they could not diſengage them: Thus they diſputed for a while, the Elder Brother bidding him, *Be a Father to his Wife and Children, and as he would inherit his Eſtate, take Care of their common Siſters*; but all he could ſay, made him not deſiſt; This was a Scene of Tenderneſs which muſt fill the Spectators with Pity, or any Breaſt ſuſceptible of generous Impreſſions!

BUT the Common Sailors, who in all Countries are Brutal, cried out, *Agree, agree, or we will fling you Both over.* At laſt, as it is no difficult Thing to perſwade a Man to live, the *Conſtancy* of the Elder Brother yielded to the *Piety* of the Younger; he acquieſced, and ſuffered the Gallant Young Man to ſupply his Place; who being flung into the Water, when he came to it, could not be content to dye; he being a very good Swimmer, got to the Stern of the Pinnace, and laid hold with his right Hand; which being perceiv'd by one of the Sailors, with a Cutleis, the Brute cut off his right-Hand; upon which, dropping into the Sea, he caught hold again with his Left, which received the ſame Fate by a ſecond Blow; thus diſmembered in his two Hands, he made a Shift to keep himſelf above Water, with his Feet and two Stumps.

THIS moving Spectacle ſo raiſed the Pity of the whole Crew, that they cry'd out, *He is but one Man, let us ſave him*; which was accordingly done; and he taken into the Boat, had his Hands bound up as well as the Place and Circumſtances would permit. They row'd all that Night, and next Morning, when the Sun aroſe, as if Heaven would reward the Gallantry and Piety of this Young Man, and for his Sake, ſave all the reſt, they deſcry'd Land, which prov'd to be the Mountains of *Mozambique* in *Africk*, where the *Portugueze* have a Colony; hither they all ſafely got, where they ſtayed 'til the next Ships from *Lisbon* paſs'd by, and carried this Company to *Goa*; where *Linſchotten*, a *Dutch* Author of good Credit, aſſures us, That he himſelf ſaw them Land, ſupp'd with the two Brothers that very Night, ſaw the Younger with his Stumps, and had the Story from both their Mouths, as well as from the reſt of the Company.

MY Ingenious Correſpondent, *who very* properly *takes upon Him the Name of* MANLY, *will ſhortly ſee how much I value his* Correſpondence: *And I do, from this Time, deſire the* Continuance *of his* Favours.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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